

10/012,195

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RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/870,412, filed May 30, 2001.--

REMARKS

The present application has been amended to include a Related Applications section, immediately after the Title of the Invention, which states that the application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/870,412, filed on May 30, 2001.

As the present application has been amended to include a "specific reference" to the prior copending U.S. patent application to which priority is claimed, and this reference has been submitted within sixteen months from the filing date of the prior application, it is submitted that the present application has made a valid priority claim to the prior application. See 35 U.S.C. §120; 37 C.F.R. §1.78.

It is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (978) 341-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

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